

Integrated Public Safety Commission Project Hoosier SAFE-T		Section II (a)(vi) Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups
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Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups

Section II (a) (vi)

Policies

1. All agencies participating in Project Hoosier SAFE-T shall program, at a minimum, the regional interoperable talkgroups for the respective geographic area. For example: Public safety agencies in Region A, (Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke Counties) shall program A_MA1, MA2, MA3 into their subscriber equipment, dispatch consoles (Wireline) and RF Control stations.
 2. While not mandatory, agencies should consider programming the surrounding regional interoperable talkgroups into their subscriber equipment. This will facilitate interoperable communications where incident response may be near regional boundaries.
 3. This policy establishes the regional interoperable talkgroup MA1 for call or dispatch of high priority radio traffic.
 4. All dispatch centers shall actively monitor their respective regional MA1 talkgroup.
 5. All portables and mobile radios shall have the regional interoperable talkgroups programmed into the scan list.
- In addition to regional interoperable talkgroups, all agencies participating in Project Hoosier SAFE-T should make every effort (equipment capabilities considered) to program the statewide mutual aid talkgroups into their radios as well. The statewide mutual aid talkgroups are: SW1 through SW10. SW 10 is designated as the statewide mutual aid calling channel. Dispatch consoles and RF Control stations, where possible, should be programmed to support these talkgroups. Those dispatch centers shall actively monitor SW10 for mutual aid assistance.

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1) Background

One of the prime objectives of Hoosier SAFE-T is to establish interoperable communication capability statewide. In doing so, IPSC recognized a need to provide a series of common talkgroups that every agency participating in the system could maintain in their subscriber equipment (mobiles, portables, Wireline and RF control station consoles).

The SAFE-T regional interoperable talkgroups were established to provide common talkgroups within a region for agencies that require mutual aid incident response, or other tactical/operational response to communicate without the need to program and re-program dispatch talkgroups in the response region.

This policy will establish procedures for routinely using the regional interoperable talkgroups, and provide operational guidelines for monitoring and management of the regional interoperable talkgroups during an incident.

IPSC created, under separate policy, 17 geographic regions (Regions A-Q) and assigned three (3) region interoperable talkgroups to each of those regions. For example: Region A has MA1, MA2, and MA3 regional interoperable talkgroups. Under the policy, it was anticipated that all agencies in Region A, (Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke Counties) would program, at a minimum A_MA1, A_MA2, and A_MA3 into their subscriber equipment, dispatch consoles, and/or RF control stations. By programming these regional interoperable talkgroups, all first responders within the multi-county area would have a single point of interoperable communications.

2) Constraints:

The creation of programming templates is very complex and requires considerable thought and planning. While having surrounding community dispatch talkgroups in radios achieves the highest level of interoperability it may not be the most economical. As more public safety agencies join Project Hoosier SAFE-T, new talkgroups will be added that impact existing fleetmaps; and frequent reprogramming of templates could result in significant expense. Often agencies add or modify existing dispatch talkgroups, which would require surrounding agencies to make similar changes to maintain the same level of interoperability. Therefore, the use of regional interoperable talkgroups can significantly reduce the need for reprogramming of templates as more public safety agencies join SAFE-T.

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3) Recommendations:

Agencies are encouraged to use the regional interoperable talkgroup (MA1) for broadcast of incidents that are considered hot calls, or other calls that may require assistance from multiple agencies operating within the same geographical area.

Based upon the type of console system, the ability to simul-cast or transmit on both the primary dispatch talkgroup and MA1 can be easily accomplished. Dispatch centers should have procedures in place for setting the console to perform this function.

Examples of hot call that would qualify for regional broadcast are: pursuits, PI accidents, officer requesting aid or assistance, bank alarms, robbery in progress and other typical emergency radio traffic.

The ability for every public safety officer to receive these types of calls is critical. Agencies should not be hesitant in the use of MA1 for dispatch of these calls.

To accommodate the region-wide broadcast of these dispatches, IPSC will cause every site in the region to transmit all traffic being broadcast on the MA1 talkgroup. Doing so will allow those mobiles, portables and RF Control stations scanning the MA1 talkgroup to receive the broadcast, regardless of their primary dispatch site affiliation. **Example:** Region A (Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke Counties) will have a channel activated at each of the following sites when Region A MA1 is activated: Site 8 Summit Farm & 519 Winamac (LaPorte County), Site 651 Wanatah (Pulaski County), Site 12 Medaryville & 13 Monon (Jasper County), Site 11 Lowell, 6486 Cedar Lake, 6500 Hammond, 506 Gary (Lake County), and Site 518 Valparaiso (Porter County).

In keeping with IPSC policy to extend regional interoperable talkgroup affiliation to IPSC sites in counties adjacent to the region, the following sites will have a channel activated for broadcast of A MA1 traffic: Site 923 South Bend (St. Joseph County), Site 7 Plymouth (Marshall County), Site 750 Rochester (Fulton County), Site 517 Logansport (Cass County), Site 649 Fowler (Benton County).

Command and Control

As a mutual aid or interoperable incident is established (often long-term situations), and it is determined that extended interoperable communications is required, the agency with incident command shall request participating agency personnel to move to a Region Interoperable talkgroup MA2 or MA3, depending upon availability.

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This migration to MA2 or MA3 is critical in order to free up MA1 for other interoperable traffic (particularly hot calls), and minimize channel usage at sites not required for communications.

Example text of a dispatch message requesting units to move from MA1 to MA2 or MA3:

5 second Alert Tone... “Attention all units responding to XXXX, switch to MA2 for all traffic related to this incident. Authority Sheriff XXXX County”

At the completion of the interoperable incident, users should be notified to switch their radios back to their primary dispatch talkgroup.

NOTE: The use of this technology and the interoperable talkgroups does not alleviate the protocol for a dispatcher to contact other dispatch centers, by radio using point to point or inter-dispatch center console connection, or other methods (eg: phones), for requesting aid or assistance.